

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants request acknowledgement of the certified copy of the priority document for this application, Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-093643.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 on the basis of Hirabayashi, '064. Applicants traverse this rejection because Hirabayashi does not disclose (or suggest) a display device having light emitting elements on a first substrate, and control circuits for the light emitting elements on a second substrate, as in independent claims 1, 12 and 13 of the present application.

In the present invention, a display device includes: a first substrate having a plurality of light emitting elements on one surface thereof; and a second substrate having a circuit for controlling the plurality of the light emitting elements, bonded to the one surface of the first substrate, and sealing a space where the plurality of the light emitting elements are formed. In the present invention, the light emitting elements are formed on the first substrate and the circuit for controlling the light emitting elements is formed on the second substrate, whereby the light emitting elements can be formed on a flat surface without being affected by surface steps formed by the circuit for controlling the light emitting elements, and the emission characteristics of the light emitting elements can be improved.

By laying the circuit forming region and the light emitting elements forming regions on each other in this manner, the display device can have a high aperture ratio. The second substrate can be utilized as a protection film for shutting the light emitting elements from the moisture in the outside atmosphere, etc., whereby a number of the fabrication steps as a whole are not increased. Moreover, the two substrates can be prepared separately in parallel, whereby the

fabrication period of time can be shortened, and the yield can be expected to increase. The first substrate and the second substrate are not required to be fabricated in the same process, which permits the fabrication process itself to be simplified.

Hirabayashi discloses an electro-optical device which prevents the substrate floating effect by electrically connecting the channel region of the TFT to a light-shielding layer. The electro-optical device of Hirabayashi is mainly for a liquid-crystal display device. In the liquid-crystal display device, the switching elements (TFTs), the pixel electrodes, the bus lines, etc. are formed on a first substrate, and the common electrode is formed on a second substrate opposed to the first substrate. No light emitting elements are formed on the first and the second substrates of the liquid-crystal display device.

Thus, Hirabayashi neither teaches nor suggests the feature of the present invention that the light emitting elements are formed on the first substrate and the circuit for controlling the light emitting elements is formed on the second substrate.

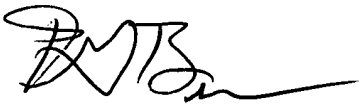
Hirabayashi discloses in column 26, lines 40-44 that “The above embodiments have been discussed in connection with the exemplary liquid-crystal display device. The present invention is not limited to these exemplary embodiments, and is applicable to an electro-optical device such as an electro-luminescence, a plasma display, etc.” However, Hirabayashi never teaches the specific structures of the electro-luminescence and the plasma display, and where to arrange the light emitting elements and the circuit for controlling the light emitting elements. Thus, Hirabayashi neither teaches nor suggests the feature of the present invention that the light emitting elements are formed on the first substrate and the circuits for controlling the light emitting elements are formed

on the second substrate. Accordingly, withdrawal of rejection of independent claims 1, 12 and 13 and their related dependent claims, 2-11 is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner should call Applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

September 28, 2005
300 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080
Customer No. 24978

Respectfully submitted,
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By: 
Patrick G. Burns
Registration No. 29,367